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12 July 1982
1500 Hours

MEMORANDUM FOR DDI

SUBJECT: Iran-Iraq Military Update

Iraq has moved an additional infantry division into the Basra area, where there are now 7 Iraqi divisions. Otherwise, there has been no change in the military situation along the border near Basra as described in this morning's NID and talking points.

We expect the Iranians to attack either tonight or tomorrow night local time (late afternoon or evening Washington time). Tehran radio today announced that a "grand and historic battle is about to begin." The commentary went on to indicate that although Iran knew casualties would be enormous, the objective of overthrowing Saddam and the Baathists was worth the price. Meanwhile, Saddam stated in a defiant speech to Iraqi religious leaders that Iraq has "the weapon that will confront Iran's numbers," possibly a reference to mustard gas. *(They do not, however, have large stockpiles of the gas.)*

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Would it make sense to
wait to offer until tide
began to turn against Iraq.
(E.g. what if they hold the Iranians
for a few weeks - WWII